

## S W A

- How soon doth man decay!  
When cloths are taken from a chest of sweets,  
To swaddle infants, whose young breaths but mid and  
Scarce knows the way; *Shak. Tit. And.*  
Those cloths are little winding sheets,  
Which do consign and fend them unto death. *Herbert.*  
They swaddled me up in my night-gown with long pieces of  
linen, till they had wrapt me in about an hundred yards of  
fwathe. *Addison.*
2. To beat; to cudgel. A low ludicrous word.  
Great on the bench, great in the saddle,  
That could as well bind o'er as swaddle. *Hindibras.*  
SWADDLE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Cloaths bound round the  
body.  
I begged them to uncase me: no, no, say they; and upon  
that carried me to one of their houses, and put me to bed in  
all my swaddles. *Addison.*  
SWADDLING-BAND. *n. f.* [from *swaddle*.] Cloth wrapped  
SWADDLING-CLOATH. *n. f.* round a new-born child.  
From thence a fairy thee unwitting rest,  
There as thou slept'st in tender swaddling-bands,  
And her babe elfin brood, there for thee left,  
Such men do changelings call, so changed by fairies theft. *Fairy Queen.*  
That great baby you see there is not yet out of his swaddling-  
clouts. *Shak. Hamlet.*  
The swaddlingbands were purple, wrought with gold. *Dryd.*  
To SWAG. *v. n.* [from *swag*, Saxon; *swagga*, Islandick.] To  
sink down by its weight; to lay heavy.  
They are more apt, in swagging down, to pierce with their  
points, than in the jacent posture, and crevice the wall. *Hart.*  
Being a tall fish, and with his sides much compressed, he  
hath a long fin upon his back, and another answering to it on  
his belly; by which he is the better kept upright, or from  
swagging on his sides. *Grew.*  
To SWAGE. *v. a.* [from *affuage*.] To ease; to soften; to mi-  
tigate.  
Apt words have pow'r to *swage*  
The tumours of a troubled mind,  
And are as balm to fester'd wounds. *Milton.*  
Nor wanting pow'r to mitigate and *swage*,  
With solemn touches, troubled thoughts, and chase  
Anguish, and doubt, and fear from mortal minds. *Milton.*  
I will love thee,  
Though my distracted senses should forsake me,  
I'd find some intervals, when my poor heart  
Should *swage* itself, and be let loose to thine. *Osway.*  
To SWAGGER. *v. n.* [from *swagger*, Dutch; to make a noise;  
from *swag*, Saxon.] To bluster; to bully; to be turbulently and  
tumultuously proud and insolent.  
Drunk? squabble? *swagger*? and discourse surlous with  
one's own shadow? Oh thou invincible spirit of wine! *Shak.*  
'Tis the gage of one that I should fight withal, if he be  
alive; a rascal that *swagger'd* with me last night. *Shakespeare.*  
Oft a terrible oath, with a *swaggering* accent sharply twang'd  
off, gives manhood more approbation than proof itself. *Shak.*  
The lesser size of mortals love to *swagger* for opinions, and  
to boast infallibility of knowledge. *Glauco. Scyll.*  
Many such asses in the world huff, look big, stare, dress,  
cock, and *swagger* at the same noisy rate. *L'Estrange.*  
He chuck'd,  
And scarcely deign'd to set a foot to ground,  
But *swagger'd* like a lord. *Dryden.*  
Confidence, how weakly soever founded, hath some effect  
upon the ignorant, who think there is something more than  
ordinary in a *swaggering* man that talks of nothing but de-  
monstration. *Tillotson.*  
To be great, is not to be starched, and formal, and superci-  
lous; to *swagger* at our footmen, and browbeat our infe-  
riors. *Collier on Pride.*  
What a pleasure is it to be victorious in a cause? to *swag-  
ger* at the bar? for a lawyer I was born, and a lawyer I will  
be. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*  
SWAGGERER. *n. f.* [from *swagger*.] A blusterer; a bully; a  
turbulent noisy fellow.  
He's no *swaggerer*, hostess; a tame cheater: you may stroke  
him as gently as a puppy greyhound. *Shak. Henry IV.*  
SWAGGY. *adj.* [from *swag*.] Dependent by its weight.  
The beaver is called animal ventricosum, from his *swaggy*  
and prominent belly. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
SWAIN. *n. f.* [from *swain*, Saxon and Runick.]  
1. A young man.  
That good knight would not so nigh repair,  
Himself estranging from their joyance vain,  
Whose fellowship seem'd far unfit for warlike *swain*. *F. 2.*  
2. A country servant employed in husbandry.  
It were a happy life  
To be no better than a homely *swain*. *Shak. Henry VI.*  
3. A pastoral youth.  
Blest *swains*! whose nymphs in ev'ry grace excel;  
Blest nymphs! whose *swains* those graces sing so well. *Pope.*

## S W A

- SWAINMOTE. *n. f.* [from *swainmote*, law Lat.] A court touching  
matters of the forest, kept by the charter of the forest three  
times in the year. This court of *swainmote* is as incident to a forest,  
as the court of piepowder is to a fair. The *swainmote* is a  
court of freeholders within the forest. *Cowell.*  
To SWALE. *v. a.* [from *swale*, Saxon; to kindle.] To waste or  
To SWEAL. *v. a.* blaze away; to melt; as, the candle swales.  
SWALLET. *n. f.* Among the tin-miners, water breaking in  
upon the miners at their work. *Bailey.*  
SWALLOW. *n. f.* [from *swallow*, Saxon.] A small bird of pas-  
sage, or, as some say, a bird that lies hid and sleeps in the  
winter.  
The swallow follows not Summer more willingly than we  
your lordship. *Shak. Timon of Athens.*  
Daffodils,  
That come before the swallow dars, *Shakespeare.*  
The swallows make use of celandine, and the linnæ of  
eupragia. *Mor.*  
When swallows fleet foat high and sport in air,  
He told us that the welkin would be clear. *Gay.*  
The swallow swoops  
The slimy pool, to build his hanging house  
Intent. *Thomson's Spring.*  
To SWALLOW. *v. a.* [from *swallow*, Saxon; *swalgen*, Dutch.]  
1. To take down the throat.  
I swallow down my spite. *Job vii. 19.*  
If little faults  
Shall not be wink'd at, how shall we stretch our eye,  
Whose capital crimes chew'd swallows'd, and digested,  
Appear before us? *Shakespeare's Henry V.*  
Men are, at a venture, of the religion of the country; and  
must therefore swallow down opinions, as silly people do em-  
piricks pills, and have nothing to do but believe that they will  
do the cure. *Locke.*  
2. To receive without examination.  
Consider and judge of it as a matter of reason, and not  
swallow it without examination as a matter of faith. *Locke.*  
3. To engross; to appropriate.  
Far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy. *2 Sa.*  
Homer excels all the inventors of other arts in this, that he  
has swallow'd up the honour of those who succeeded him. *Pope.*  
4. To absorb; to take in; to sink in any abyss; to engulf.  
Though you untie the winds, and let them fight  
Against the churches, though the yelty waves  
Confound and swallow navigation up. *Shakespeare.*  
I may be pluck'd into the swallowing womb  
Of this deep pit, poor Bassianus' grave. *Shak. Tit. And.*  
Death is swallow'd up in victory. *1 Cor. xv. 54.*  
If the earth open her mouth and swallow them up, ye shall  
understand that these men have provoked the Lord. *Nim. xvi.*  
In bogs swallow'd up and lost.  
He hid many things from us, not that they would swallow  
up our understanding, but divert our attention from what is  
more important. *Decay of Piety.*  
Nature would abhor  
To be forced back again upon herself,  
And like a whirlpool swallow her own streams. *Dryden and Let's Oedipus.*  
Should not the sad occasion swallow up  
My other cares, and draw them all into it? *Addison.*  
Cities overturn'd,  
And late at night in swallowing earthquake funk. *Thomson.*  
5. To devour; to destroy.  
The necessary provision for life swallows the greatest part  
of their time.  
Corruption swallow'd what the liberal hand  
Of bounty scatter'd. *Thomson's Autumn.*  
6. To be lost in any thing; to be given up.  
The priest and the prophet are swallow'd up of wine. *If.*  
SWALLOW. *n. f.* [from the verb.] The throat; voracity.  
Had this man of merit and mortification been called to ac-  
count for his ungodly *swallows*, in gorging down the estates of  
helpless widows and orphans, he would have told them that it  
was all for charitable uses. *South.*  
SWALLOWTAIL. *n. f.* A species of willow.  
The shining willow they call swallowtail, because of the  
pleasure of the leaf. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
SWALLOWWORT. *n. f.* A plant.  
SWAMP. The preterite of swim.  
SWAMP. *n. f.* [from *swamp*, Gothick; *swan*, Saxon; *swamm*,  
Islandick; *swamme*, Dutch; *swamp*, Danish; *swamp*, Swedish.]  
A marsh; a bog; a fen.  
SWAMPY. *adj.* [from *swamp*.] Boggy; fenny.  
Swampy fens breathe destructive myriads. *Thomson.*  
SWAN. *n. f.* [from *swan*, Saxon; *swan*, Danish; *swan*, Dutch.]  
The swan is a large water-fowl, that has a long and very  
straight neck, and is very white, excepting when it is young.  
Its legs and feet are black, as is its bill, which is like that of  
a goose, but something rounder, and a little hooked at the  
lower end of it: the two sides below its eyes are black and  
shining like ebony. Swans use wings like sails, which catch  
the wind, so that they are driven along in the water. *Feet*

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- feed upon herbs and some sort of grain like a goose, and some  
are said to have lived three hundred years. There is a species  
of swans with the feathers of their heads, towards the breast,  
marked at the ends with a gold colour inclining to red. The  
swan is reckoned by Moses among the unclean creatures; but  
it was consecrated to Apollo the god of music, because it was  
said to sing melodiously when it was near expiring; a tradition  
generally received, but fabulous. *Calmet.*  
With untainted eye  
Compare her face with some that I shall show,  
And I will make thee think thy swan a crow. *Shakespeare.*  
Let music found, while he doth make his choice;  
Then if he lose, he makes a swan like end. *Shakespeare.*  
I have seen a swan,  
With bootless labour, swim against the tide,  
And spend her strength with over-matching waves. *Shakespeare.*  
The birds easy to be drawn are plainpeds, or water-fowl,  
as the mallard, goose, and swan. *Peacham on Drawing.*  
The fearful matrons raise a screaming cry,  
Old feeble men with fainter groans reply;  
A jarring pool refuses, and mingles in the sky,  
Like that of swans returning to the floods. *Dryden.*  
The idea, which an Englishman signifies by the name *swan*,  
is a white colour, long neck, black beak, black legs, and whole  
feet, and all these of a certain size, with a power of swim-  
ming in the water, and making a certain kind of noise. *Locke.*  
SWANSKIN. *n. f.* [from *swan* and *skin*.] A kind of soft flannel,  
imitating for warmth the down of a swan.  
SWAP. *adv.* [from *swapa*, to do at a snatch, Islandick.] Hastily;  
with hasty violence: as, he did it *swap*. A low word.  
To SWAP. *v. a.* To exchange. See To SWOP.  
SWARD. *n. f.* [from *svärd*, Swedish.]  
1. The skin of bacon.  
2. The surface of the ground: whence *green sward*, or *green  
sward*.  
Water, kept too long, loosens and softens the *sward*, makes  
it subject to rushes and coarse grass. *Note on Tupper.*  
The noon of night was past, when the foe  
Came dreading o'er the level *sward*, that lies  
Between the wood and the swift streaming Ouse. *A. Philips.*  
To plant a vineyard in July, when the earth is very dry  
and combustible, plow up the *sward*, and burn it. *Mortimer.*  
SWARE. The preterite of swear.  
SWARM. *n. f.* [from *swarm*, Saxon; *swarm*, Dutch.]  
1. A great body or number of bees or other small animals, par-  
ticularly those bees that migrate from the hive.  
A swarm of bees that cut the liquid sky,  
Upon the topmost branch in clouds alight. *Dryden's Æn.*  
2. A multitude; a crowd.  
From this swarm of fair advantages,  
You grip'd the general sway into your hand,  
Forgot your oath to us at Doncaster. *Shakespeare.*  
If we could number up those prodigious swarms that had  
settled themselves in every part of it, they would amount to  
more than can be found. *Addison on Italy.*  
To SWARM. *v. n.* [from *swarm*, Saxon; *swarmen*, Dutch.]  
1. To rise as bees in a body, and quit the hive.  
All hands employ'd,  
Like labouring bees on a long Summer's day;  
Some found the trumpet for the rest to *swarm*. *Dryden.*  
Swarm'd on a rotten tick the bees I spy'd. *Gay.*  
When bees hang in swarming time, they will presently rise,  
if the weather hold. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*  
2. To appear in multitudes; to crowd; to throng.  
The mercilefs Macdonel,  
The multiplying villanies of nature  
Do swarm upon. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*  
Our superfluous lacqueys, and our peasants,  
Who in unnecessary action swarm  
About our squares of battle. *Shakespeare. Henry V.*  
What a multitude of thoughts at once  
Awaken'd in the *swarm*, while I consider  
What from within I feel myself, and hear  
What from without comes often to my ears. *Milton.*  
Then mounts the throne, high plac'd before the shrine;  
In crowds around the swarming people join. *Dryden's Æn.*  
3. To be crowded; to be over-run; to be thronged.  
These garbisons you have now planted throughout all Ire-  
land, and every place swarms with soldiers. *Spenser.*  
Her lower region swarms with all sort of fowl, her rivers  
with fish, and her seas with whole shoals. *Howell.*  
Those days swarmed with fables, and from such grounds  
took hints for fictions, poisoning the world ever after. *Brown.*  
4. To breed multitudes.  
Not so thick swarm'd once the foil  
Bedropp'd with blood of Gorgon. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*  
SWART. *adj.* [from *swart*, Gothick; *swarte*, Saxon; *swart*,  
Dutch.]  
1. Black; darkly brown; tawney.  
A nation strange, with visage *swart*,  
And courage fierce, that all men did affray,  
Through the world then swarmed in every part. *F. Queen.*

## S W A

- A man  
Of swarth complexion, and of crabbed hute, *Fairy Queen.*  
That him full of melancholy did shew. *Fairy Queen.*  
Whereas I was black and *swart* before;  
With those clear rays which the infus'd on me, *Shak. H. VI.*  
That beauty am I blent with; which you see,  
No goblin, or *swart* fairy of the mine, *Milton.*  
Hath hurtful power o'er true virginity.  
2. In Milton it seems to signify black; gloomy; malignant.  
Ye valleys low,  
On whose fresh lap the *swart* star sparsely looks. *Milton.*  
To SWART. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To blacken; to  
dusk.  
The heat of the sun may *swart* a living part, or even black  
a dead or dissolving flesh. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
SWARTHILY. *adv.* [from *swarthly*.] Blackly; dusklily; taw-  
nily.  
SWARTHINESS. *n. f.* [from *swarthly*.] Darknes of complexion;  
tawnyness.  
SWARTHY. *adj.* [See SWART.] Dark of complexion; black;  
dusky; tawney.  
Set me where, on some pathless plain,  
The *swarthly* Africans complain. *Rowe's Remon.*  
Though in the torrid climates the common colour is black  
or *swarthly*, yet the natural colour of the temperate climates is  
more transparent and beautiful. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*  
Here *swarthly* Charles appears, and there *Addison.*  
His brother with dejected air.  
Did they know Cato, our remotest kings  
Would pour embattled multitudes about him;  
Their *swarthly* hosts would darken all our plains,  
Doubling the native horroir of the wars,  
And making death more grim. *Addison's Cato.*  
SWASH. *n. f.* [A cant word.] A figure, whose circumference  
is not round, but oval; and whose moldings lie not at right  
angles, but oblique to the axis of the work. *Mason.*  
To SWASH. *v. n.* To make a great clatter or noise: whence  
*swashbuckler*.  
We'll have a *swashing* and a martial outside,  
As many other mannish cowards have,  
That do outface it with their semblances. *Shakespeare.*  
Draw, if you be men: Gregory, remember thy *swashing*  
blow. *Shak. Romeo and Juliet.*  
SWASHER. *n. f.* [from *swash*.] One who makes a show of  
valour or force of arms.  
I have observed these three *swashers*; three such anticks do  
not amount to a man. *Shakespeare. Henry V.*  
SWATCH. *n. f.* A swathe. Not in use.  
One spreadeth those bands so in order to lie;  
As barlie in *swatches* may fill it thereby. *Tupper.*  
SWATH. *n. f.* [from *swath*, Dutch.]  
1. A line of grass cut down by the mower.  
With tossing and raking, and setting on cox,  
Grass, lately in *swaths*, is meat for an ox. *Tupper.*  
The strawy Greeks, ripe for his edge,  
Fall down before him, like the mower's *swath*. *Shakespeare.*  
As soon as your grass is mown, if it lie thick in the *swath*,  
neither air nor sun can pass freely through it. *Mortimer.*  
2. A continued quantity.  
An affection'd ass, that cons state without book, and utters  
it by great *swaths*. *Shak. Twelfth Night.*  
3. [Spear, to bind, Saxon.] A band; a fillet.  
An Indian comb, a stick whereof is cut into three sharp and  
round teeth four inches long: the other part is left for the  
handle, adorned with fine straws laid along the sides, and  
lapped round about it in several distinct *swaths*. *Grew.*  
They swaddled me up in my night-gown with long pieces of  
linen, which they folded about me, till they had wrapped me  
in above an hundred yards of *swathe*. *Addison's Spectator.*  
To SWATHE. *v. a.* [from *swath*, Saxon.] To bind, as a child  
with bands and rollers.  
Thrice hath this Hotspur, Mars in *swathing* cloaths,  
This infant warrior, and his enterprizes, *Shak. Henry IV.*  
Discomfited great Douglas.  
He had two sons; the eldest of them at three years old,  
I th' *swathing* cloaths the other, from their nursery  
Were stol'n. *Shakespeare. Cymbeline.*  
Their children are never *swathed*, or bound about with any  
thing, when they are first born; but are put naked into the bed  
with their parents to lie. *Abbot's Description of the World.*  
Swath'd in her lap the bold nurse bore him out,  
With olive branches cover'd round about. *Dryden.*  
Master's feet are *swath'd* no longer,  
If in the night too oft he kicks,  
Or shows his loco-motive tricks. *Prior.*  
To SWAY. *v. a.* [from *schweben*, German, to move.]  
1. To wave in the hand; to move or wield with facility: as, to  
*sway* the scepter.  
Glancing fire out of the iron play'd,  
As sparkles from the anvil rise,  
When heavy hammers on the wedge are *sway'd*. *F. Queen.*